

REMARKS

Claims 9-16 and 18-20 are pending and under consideration. Claim 10 has been amended to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection and not to overcome the prior art. No new matter is presented.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The Examiner asserts that the specification does not provide proper antecedent basis for the term “substantially.” Although “essentially” and “substantially” are synonyms having the same basic meaning, claim 10 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner also rejected claim 10 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. It is believed that this rejection is overcome by the foregoing amendment. However, Applicants wish to point out that the tolerance provided by the term “essentially” is clearly set forth in the specification at page 7, line 26, through page 8, line 5. In particular, the specification recites that the thermal coefficient of expansion of a ceramic material is preferably situated at approximately 6-7 ppm/K given the working temperature of the body. Accordingly, Applicants request that these rejections of claim 10 be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 11-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa (JP 06097656 A (including abstract and machine translation)) in view of Sato (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,455). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 recites a ceramic body having a monolithic multilayer structure. The specification, at replacement page 4a, lines 13 to 17, states that a ceramic body having a monolithic multilayer structure is characterized in that the ceramic layers of the body are firmly connected to one another and form a unit. In order to obtain a monolithic body, a stack composed of green films and metal foils is normally subjected to a sintering process.

Nishikawa discloses a multilayer ceramic body but the electrical components are not integrated using a metal foil. Sato discloses a porous ceramic body in which electrode material can be applied to a previously sintered ceramic body. In other words, the metal foil is bonded to the sintered ceramic body in the device of Sato. Thus, since the specification sets forth that a

monolithic multilayer structure is obtained by bonding together the ceramic green foils and the metal foils during the sintering process, Sato fails to disclose a monolithic multilayer structure. Therefore, there would have been no motivation to modify Nishikawa in light of the teachings of Sato because Sato relates to a different type of device. Further, Sato discloses a porous ceramic body, where the pores are subsequently filled with a plastic material. In contrast, Nishikawa discloses producing a dense, non-porous, ceramic body. This is further evidence that one would not have been motivated to use the teachings of Sato to modify Nishikawa to obtain the claimed device.

The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa and Sato and further in view of Polinski (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,570).

This rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 9. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

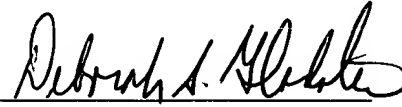
Applicants respectfully request that this amendment after final be considered since the amendment to claim 10 was suggested by the Examiner and merely returns claim 10 to its original form.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant(s) petition(s) for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of

such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit**
Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122019100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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